

August 6, 2020

The Times

Dear Editor,

I refer to the Analysis “Beijing maintains ‘one country, two systems’ charade in Hong Kong” on 30 July 2020.

The decision of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to postpone the election is reasonable, legal and in public interest.

A new wave of the COVID-19 epidemic from 1 July till 3 August has recorded over 2300 confirmed cases, compared to a cumulative caseload of about 1200 over the preceding six months. There is an increasing risk of a major community outbreak that may lead to the collapse of the local public hospital system. On the other hand, the Legislative Council General Election is massive in scale. The situation with millions of voters casting their votes on the same day will create a very high infection risk. As a matter of fact, many elections have been postponed across the globe due to COVID-19. Among others, the United Kingdom postponed the local council elections and the metro-mayoral elections due to take place on 7 May, 2020, for a year to [6 May, 2021](#).

The current wave of the epidemic in Hong Kong is likely to last for weeks or even longer. There may also be a winter surge. The Legislative Council performs important and substantive functions, and has an annual business cycle. Preparation work and the voter registration exercise will take months before an election can be held. It is thus reasonable and in the public interest to postpone the election for a year.

Miss Winky So

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